

## Senate Joint Resolution 7 - Introduced

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 7  
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### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Joint Resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution  
2 of the State of Iowa relating to the appointment of nominees  
3 to the supreme court by the governor.  
4 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. The following amendment to the Constitution of  
2 the State of Iowa is proposed:

3 Section 15 of Article V of the Constitution of the State of  
4 Iowa, as added by the Amendment of 1962, is amended to read as  
5 follows:

6 **Vacancies in courts.** SEC. 15. Vacancies in the supreme  
7 court and district court shall be filled by appointment by the  
8 governor from lists of nominees submitted by the appropriate  
9 judicial nominating commission. Three nominees shall be  
10 submitted for each supreme court vacancy, and two nominees  
11 shall be submitted for each district court vacancy. If the  
12 governor fails for thirty days to make ~~the~~ an appointment  
13 from the district court nominees, ~~it~~ the appointment shall  
14 be made from ~~such~~ the nominees by the chief justice of the  
15 supreme court. The governor may reject all three nominees for  
16 a supreme court vacancy and the nomination process shall start  
17 anew until the governor appoints a nominee to fill the vacancy.  
18 A nominee that has been rejected by the governor shall not be  
19 renominated by the state judicial nominating commission to fill  
20 the same vacancy.

21 Sec. 2. REFERRAL AND PUBLICATION. The foregoing amendment  
22 to the Constitution of the State of Iowa is referred to the  
23 general assembly to be chosen at the next general election  
24 for members of the general assembly, and the secretary of  
25 state is directed to cause the same to be published for three  
26 consecutive months previous to the date of that election as  
27 provided by law.

28 EXPLANATION

29 This joint resolution proposes an amendment to the  
30 Constitution of the State of Iowa relating to the appointment  
31 of nominees to the supreme court by the governor.

32 The resolution provides that the governor may reject  
33 all three nominees for a supreme court vacancy by the state  
34 judicial nominating commission, in which case, the nomination  
35 process shall start anew until the governor appoints a nominee

1 to fill the vacancy. The resolution also prevents a nominee  
2 that has been rejected by the governor from being renominated  
3 to fill the same vacancy.

4 The Constitution currently requires the governor to appoint  
5 a nominee from the list of three nominees submitted by the  
6 state judicial nominating commission, and if the governor does  
7 not make an appointment within 30 days of receiving the list of  
8 nominees, the chief justice is required to make the appointment  
9 from the list of such nominees.

10 The resolution, if adopted, would be referred to the next  
11 general assembly (eighty-fifth) for adoption before the  
12 amendment is submitted to the electorate for ratification.